Import of rapeseed and vegetable oils

379. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rapeseed and other vegetable oils imported by the S.T.C. in 1987-88 and amount of foreign exchange spent thereon;

(b) the names of the countries where from it had been imported; and

(c) the quantity allotted and actually distributed to each State and the details of amount charged by the S.T.C. per tonne from the State Governments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAI-THA): (a) During oil year 1987-88 (November, 87 to January, 88) STC has imported 5.79 lakh tonnes of edible oil valued at Rs. 269.59 crores.

(b) The names of the countries from which edible oils are normally shipped are as follows:

Oil	Countries
Soyabean Oil	USA, Brazil, Argentina and Europe
Rapeseed Oil	Canada, Europe, China
Palm Oil/Palmolein	Malaysia & Indonesia

(c) A statement indicating the allocation and lifting of edible oils to/ by the States/UTs during oil year 1987-88 is attached. [See Appendix CXLV. Annexure No. IB]. The Central issue price of imported edible oils for supply to State under PDS w.e.f. 23-12-87 is as under; —

For PDS in bulk	Rs. 11,000 PMT.
for PDS in tins	Rs. 12,500 PMT

Setting up of All India Radio Station at Asansol in West Bengal

380. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has so far been made in regard to the setting up of All India Radio Station at Asansol in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) A site measuring 4 acres has been selected for the setting up of the proposed radio station at Asansol. The site belongs to the Defence Department who have been requested to hand over the site for implementing this scheme.

The scheme envisages the setting up of a 2X3 KW FM transmitter, multi-purpose studios, receiving facilities and staff quarters. The proposed radio station is expected to be ready for commissioning during 1990, provided the site is available by March/April, 1988.

Rise in the prices of Essential Commodities

381. DR. R. K. PODDAR; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been rise in prices of essential commodities during the recent past; and

(b) what were the prices of essential commodities during the corresponding period of the last three years as compared to the existing prices of October, November and December, 1937?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAI-THA): (a) There has been a mixed trend in the prices of essential commodities during the past four months. The prices of some commodities have moved up, some have moved down and a few have remaind more or less steady.

(b) Relevant information is given in the attached statement. [See Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 17]

Expansion of Central Plant and CropResearch Institute at Mohit Nagarin West Bengal

382. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: SHRI NARAYAN KAR-

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for expansion of the Branch of the Central Plant and Research Institute at Mohitnagar, Jalpaiguri in West Bengal;

(b) whether Government have received any letter for implementation of the above expansion programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken so far or proposed *to* be taken in this regard; and

(e) if no steps have been taken so far the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): There is no Institute under the ICAR named as Central Plant and Crop Research Institute at Mohitnagar in West Bengal. However, there is an Institute named as Central Plantation Crops Research Institute located at Kasaragod (Kerala) with a Research Centre at Mohitnagar, Jalpaiguri in West Bengal and information is as under:—

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) (i) to upgrade the centre to the status of regional station; (ii)to increase the staff strength; (iii) to acquire additional land.

(d) (i) Negotiations with the State Government of West Bengal for tak ing over of 22 acres of land are in process, (ii) Action has been taken to deploy the staff.

(e) Does not arise.

Survey of Haldia fertiliser plant

383. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2078 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1987 and state:

(a) whether end-to-end survey of the Haldia Fertilizer Plant have since been undertaken; and

(b)-if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, sir,, consultants have since been appointed for carrying out an end-to-end suvrey of the Haldia fertilizer project; and

(b) The report of the consultants is expected by May, 1988.